

Urban District Council of Farnham.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1910

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

I beg to report that during the year I have received 20 notifications under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1899, namely 9 of Diphtheria, 1 of Scarlatina, 7 of Measles, 2 of Erysipelas, and 1 of Consumption in a poor person. This is not very different from last year, if we exclude the large epidemic of Measles in that year. Besides the above, I have been notified of 4 cases of Diphtheria, 1 of Scarlatina, 1 of Consumption, and 1 of Enteric Fever, all in the Union, but not any of them coming from the Urban District. The accompanying table gives details of the Urban District cases.

Month.	Diphtheria.	Scarlatina.	Measles.	Erysipelas.	Consumption in poor Persons.	Enter- ic.
January ...	—	—	—	—	—	NIL.
February...	—	—	—	—	—	
March	—	1	3	—	—	
April	7	—	—	1	1	
May	—	—	2	—	—	
June	—	—	—	—	—	
July	—	—	1	—	—	
August ...	—	—	—	—	—	
September .	2	—	1	1	—	
October ...	—	—	—	—	—	
November..	—	—	—	—	—	
December ..	—	—	—	—	—	
Totals...	9	1	7	2	1	0

Referring now to the notifiable diseases in detail :—

Diphtheria. The 7 cases notified in April occurred in 3 houses. In one house on the Tilford Road 4 cases occurred, three of which were caused by infection from a child who was ill for 10 days with the disease before the fact was recognised by the parents, and therefore was not treated or isolated. The drainage here was discovered to be faulty, and has since been amended. The other 3 April cases occurred in two houses in Church Lane, and in both the sanitary conditions were found to be bad and were the subject of a detailed report, which is submitted with this report. The 2 cases notified in September were single ones, and both are believed to have been imported. One death only resulted from these cases, namely : the child who was untreated for 10 days.

Scarlatina. Only one case occurred in the town ; the infection must presumably have been brought into the district, as there had been no case within its borders for many weeks and the disease did not spread ; this was in March. In December a case was notified in the Union, but its source of infection was never traced, and I do not think that the cases which have occurred in the town in January, 1911, were due to it. There was no death from this cause.

Measles. Only 7 cases in the year ; it was never epidemic. There was no death.

Erysipelas. There were 2 cases ; in one, considerable fault was found with the drainage, and it has been relaid ; in the other, no sanitary fault of importance was found.

Whooping Cough was epidemic for three or four months, and caused 3 deaths.

Summer Diarrhœa was almost absent, probably owing to the cool damp summer.

Chicken Pox. This was epidemic in April, interfering somewhat with School work at the East Street Council Infants' School ; but was not particularly severe.

Consumption. I have had no cases notified under the voluntary powers possessed, and only 2 notifications in poor persons, both in the Union ; one belonging to the Urban District before admission, and one a tramp.

Influenza was at no time epidemic ; but two deaths were attributed to it.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATE.

MONTH.	TOWN.				UNION.			
	Deaths.			Births.	Deaths.			Births
	Total per month.	Under 1 year.	Zymotic Diseases.		Total per month.	Under 1 year.	Zymotic Diseases.	
January	6			15	10	1		3
February.....	8			10	10			1
March	12	1	2	14	4		1	
April	4	1	1	12	7			4
May	7			15	6	1		5
June	4			14	4			2
July.....	8	2		12	5			
August	5	1	1	8	7	1		1
September ...	7		2	15	8			2
October	4	1		15	7	3		2
November ...	5			12	10			
December ...	8	1		9	7			
Brookwood								
Asylum	2				1			
Kensington	}							
Consumption								
Hospital		1						
Isolation Hos.	1							
Totals.....	82	7	6	151	86	6	1	20
Per 1000 <small>per Annum</small>	11·36	0·97	0·83	20·36				
Do. in 1909	12·48	0·98	0·56	28·19				
Do. in 1908	13·23	2·98	1·70	24·29				

The birth rate this year has been low, and, in sharp contrast to that of last year, is now only 151; which is 13 below the average of the last 10 years, and is lower than it has been since 1902.

The death rate, I am glad to say, is again lower than last year; being 7 below it, and 2 below the average of the last 10 years. The rate also for the deaths of Infants under 1 year is again very low, though not quite so low as that of last year; this is because the Infantile death rate is usually calculated as per 1,000 births, and not per 1,000 of population, though the actual number of deaths was 7, namely the same as last year. Thus calculated per 1,000 births the rate is 46·4, against last year's 34·8; but, calculated per 1,000 of population the rate is 0·97, as against 0·98 last year. It is interesting to note that this again coincides with a cool damp summer. It is also noteworthy that

of the 7, three were premature births, and one from whooping cough. The instructive cards on Infant Mortality, published by the County Council, are still being distributed, and I am in hopes that the younger mothers are beginning to know a little more how to bring up their infants. The Notification of Births Act has not been adopted. The accompanying table gives details and rates per 1,000 of population ; this is calculated for this year at 7,220.

SCHOOL INSPECTION.

I have continued to inspect these, and have sent a report to the County Education Medical Officer at the end of each term and a summary at the end of the year. I have paid twelve ordinary and seven special visits to the schools ; also sixteen visits to schoolchildren at their own homes for contagious or infectious diseases. Considerable trouble has been occasioned by children being sent to school suffering from Pediculosis of the head, or ringworm. By visiting their parents, and excluding all children suffering from these complaints till they were cured, great improvement has been effected. All the schools have an abundant supply of good water, and the sanitary conditions are on the whole good. A great improvement has been made at the East Street Council Schools by doing away with the trough closets which were so difficult to keep clean. At the Church of England School the urinal has been altered and much improved. It has not been necessary to close the schools at all for illness.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Only 14 cases were removed from the district, including those in the Union, to this Hospital, and there was only one death there among them. The Hospital's Committee has consented to receive any case of Plague if by chance one occurs here.

WATER SUPPLY.

The principal supply is by the Farnham Water Company which derives its water partly from an extensive gathering ground at Hale, and partly from a deep well dug near the river ; the waters derived from these two sources are mixed in the mains and conducted together to a reservoir on the high ground to the south of the town, there filtered, and from thence distributed by gravitation. Analyses this year have given good results.

The Wey Valley Water Company also supplies part of the district, and its water is of good quality. There have been no cases of lead poisoning in the district, that I have heard of, attributed to the water, nor is lead found in either of the waters supplied. There are now very few houses in the town, if any, which are supplied by well water.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Nineteen new houses have been built on the outskirts of the town, especially on the South side, in which direction it is principally extending. All the plans have been examined by the Council's Sanitary Committee. The houses built are mostly detached with abundance of air space round them, and new streets have been set out on the Waverley and Sheephouse Estates. In the older parts of the town, such as the yards and alleys turning out of the larger streets, there is some crowding together of the houses and a considerable number of very small, illpaved, sunless and airless back yards.

Systematic inspections are being constantly made, and as a result of these, 135 cottages in various parts of the town have been examined and plans of each floor made, so that the size, capacity, aspect, and general conditions of any room can be ascertained on reference to the plan, and the surrounding air space and other conditions have also been recorded. As to 31 of these, special detailed reports (which are submitted with this report) have been made during the year, and the Council have taken steps on some of these reports and have the others under consideration. In a good many more cases the landlord has very much improved the state of the houses reported on in consequence of the action taken. Only one definite case of overcrowding was discovered, and it was abated.

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES, SCAVENGING AND SEWERING.

The following nuisances have been abated, or unsanitary conditions removed :—

Drains altered, amended, or repaired...	...	24
Yards repaved	5
Old dustheaps replaced by sanitary dustbins	...	6
Repairs, or alteration of unsanitary conditions, or cleansing premises	11
Insufficient w.c.'s made good	10
Manure pits cemented or improved	3
Fowls kept so as to be a nuisance	1
Fish shop cleansed	1
Slaughter houses improved	5
Dairy removed from an unsanitary position and replaced in a new one	1

All the sink and surface gulleys on private property have been cleansed and disinfected periodically by the council; any dirty yards, or wall surfaces round them, have been well sprayed with disinfectants, and many drains have been from time to time cleansed. The sewers have been regularly flushed, and sections

in Abbey Street and Darvill's Lane have been dredged; in the higher parts of the town the sewers are air-flushed. The new percolating filters at the Sewage Farm, covering about $\frac{1}{4}$ acre, have been completed, and have proved a good and useful addition to the farm. Effluents from the above, and from the farm generally, have been frequently analysed, and have been mostly satisfactory.

The Sewage Farm is now being extended by the addition of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land; this land has been under-drained into existing under-drains, so that the effluent from the added area is taken into the existing effluent channel. New carriers are being taken to this new area from the existing receiving tank; this tank has been altered and amended so as to ensure better sludging, and obtain better aeration of the tank effluent. The whole of this work, it is expected, will be completed early in the spring of 1911.

A weekly collection of domestic ashes and refuse is made, as in past years; it now amounts to about 30 tons per week, and the cost of this work is about $3/2$ per ton. Trade refuse is also collected at a charge of 1d. per bushel. All this is mixed with sewage sludge at the Pumping Station premises, and the result of the mixture sold as manure to farmers.

During the summer months all the principal highways and also a number of secondary streets, are coated with tar and also regularly watered and scavenged; this prevents the road surface becoming impregnated with foul matter, and diminishes very materially the accumulation and dissemination of dust and dirt.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOOD, AND MILK SUPPLY.

The Inspector of Nuisances is specially appointed Inspector of Slaughter houses, with special reference to animals slaughtered there, also Markets and Cowsheds, with respect more particularly to the health and good condition of cattle and pigs therein. He holds the certificate of the Sanitary Institute, granted at the time when meat inspection was included in the general syllabus for examination as Inspector of Nuisances, and he has also had special training in the subject of meat inspection. He is also authorised to call in a Veterinary Surgeon whenever, in his opinion, it is necessary to have any animal, carcase, or meat examined; he has frequently inspected the places where food is prepared, or exposed for sale, and paid particular attention to the cleanliness of premises, implements, and utensils, used in the preparation of food. No officer of the Council is specially authorised or appointed under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act to take samples of food or drugs for analysis, as at present the Act is administered by the County Council Inspectors. The Markets and Slaughter houses have been frequently inspected, the Slaughter houses mostly during the time of slaughtering, and the carcasses and organs of the slaughtered animals examined for organic disease; only in one carcase was evidence of disease

found, and it was forthwith destroyed with the ready consent of the owner, in the presence of the Inspector.

The Inspector has also from time to time inspected the cow-sheds and dairies, and investigated the conditions under which the milking is carried out, and the milk kept. In two cases have stores for milk and milk vessels been improved on his recommendation ; he has also paid special attention to the cleansing of the teats and udders of the milked cows and the hands and clothes of the milkers before milking. He suggests again this year, and I quite agree with him, that the attention of the cow-keepers should be called to the necessity of providing clean clothing for all those who handle the milk.

The Committee, alluded to last year, appointed to deal with the question of the purity of the milk supply in the district has met, and is considering what steps to take for attaining this most necessary object.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Several cases of Infectious Disease have occurred during the year in Farnham Union. This building is within the Urban Council's area, with its own Medical Officer attending its inmates. Hitherto the Master of the Union has always communicated with the Medical Officer of Health of this district, with a view to having any necessary disinfection done by the Inspector of Nuisances, after any case of infectious disease ; but in June the Master expressed a wish to do all disinfection himself under the direction of his Medical Officer. Since that his desire has been acceded to, and the officials of this district have done no disinfection there.

Several months ago, a very objectionable nuisance was found to exist on the Water Company's premises in Darvill's Lane, caused by a very ancient and dilapidated W.C. over a cesspit, which was allowed to overflow. Owing to the low-lying position of the premises and the consequent difficulty of draining into the Council's Sewers, a long correspondence has been proceeding between the Council and the Water Company, which is not yet terminated, and in the meantime this disgusting nuisance remains unabated.

The inspection of midwives in this area is no longer in my hands, but is carried out by an officer of the County Council.

The circular from the Local Government Board of October 11th, 1910, concerning the registering of any offensive trade, besides those generally known as offensive, was considered, and the Council, after consulting with me, did not consider it necessary to have any special trade scheduled.

S. G. SLOMAN,

11th February, 1911.

Medical Officer of Health.

[*The Annual Report on Factories and Workshops for 1910, and also reports on certain cottages, to which allusion has been made are submitted herewith.*]

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.						Net Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.		
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1900	6050	145	23.96	11	75.9	143	23.63	68		2	70	11.57
1901	6124	138	22.53	14	101.5	168	27.61	79		5	89	14.53
1902	6182	132	21.35	10	75.7	124	20.05	67	63	5	66	10.67
1903	6573	165	25.10	17	103.0	142	21.60	72	64	4	80	12.17
1904	6659	168	25.23	15	83.3	146	21.92	86	65	3	81	12.16
1905	6750	156	23.26	10	64.1	149	22.07	79	67	7	86	12.74
1906	6850	178	25.98	12	67.4	169	24.67	95	84	4	85	12.55
1907	6950	182	26.18	13	71.4	167	24.03	88	75	6	92	13.22
1908	7040	171	24.29	21	122.2	160	22.73	84	64	8	104	14.77
1909	7130	201	28.19	7	34.8	187	26.22	107	93	5	89	12.48
Averages for years 1900-1909.	6630	164	24.60	13	79.93	155	23.45	82	72	5	84	12.68
1910	7220	151	20.36	7	46.4	170	23.54	106	85	4+	82	11.36

† Brookwood Asylum, 2; Kensington Consumption Hospital, 1; Isolation Hospital, 1.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 1,139.

Total population at all ages, 6,401; No. of inhabited houses, 1,335; Average No. of persons per house, 4.8. (At Census of 1901).

Urban District Council of Farnham.

REPORT FOR 1910

UPON

Factories and Workshops in Farnham
Urban District,

BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

REPORT.

During October, November, and December, I and the Sanitary Inspector, or between us, inspected 24 Factories, 47 Workshops or Workplaces, 9 Cowsheds, Dairies or places where milk is sold, 14 Bakeries, 9 Slaughterhouses, 2 Laundries, and 2 Common Lodging Houses.

FACTORIES.

These are distinguished from Workshops, as being places where work is done by Machinery moved by some other power than hand power, and in these cases the Factory Inspector enquires into all matters connected with the regulations of the Factory Act, and my duty consists only in ascertaining whether the sanitary arrangements are adequate (considering the number and sex of the workpeople employed) and in good order, also in satisfying myself that the means of escape in case of fire are sufficient in all Factories where more than 40 persons are employed. Of the 24 Factories inspected, the following were found in good or fair order, and with sufficient means of escape in case of fire :—

Mr. March, East Street.
Messrs. Sturt & Goatcher, East Street.
Messrs. Rose & Sons, East Street.
Messrs. Newcome & Clarke, East Street.
Messrs. Barling & Sons, East Street.
Messrs. Swain & Jones, East Street.
Messrs. Goddard & Sons, East Street.
The Gas Company, East Street.
Messrs. Watney, Combe, Reid & Co., Castle Street.
Messrs. Tily, Castle Street.
Pilgrims' Way Motor Works.
Mr. Elliott, West Street.
Mr. S. Crow, West Street.
Mr. Langham, West Street.

Messrs. Martin & Sturt, Boro'.
Messrs. Mardon & Mills, Longbridge.
Messrs. Brooks & Co., Downing Street.
Messrs. Heath & Wiltshire, South Street.
Messrs. Crosby & Co., South Street.
Messrs. Hickley & Co., South Street.
Mr. A. Simmonds, Bourne Mills.

The following three, however, are not satisfactory :—

Farnham United Breweries, Ltd.

The trough-closets in the yard were not clean, neither were the two urinals; this is partly on account of the construction of the closets, and partly because they are not sufficiently cleaned. This is the third year in succession that similar complaints have been made.

Poultry Supply Association, Bear Lane.

Persons of both sexes are employed here, and there is no w.c. The ventilation of the work room is insufficient.

Mrs. West, behind 13, East Street.

Here adjoining the factory are dirty stables with no manure pit, and a yard unpaved, with no sufficient drainage, and dirty.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

47 were inspected, and 33 found in good or fair order, namely :—

Mr. Ayling, East Street.
Mr. Crosby, East Street.
Mr. H. C. Patrick, East Street.
Mr. Midmer, East Street.
Mr. Usher, East Street.
Mr. Falkner, East Street.
Mr. Hawkes (Plumber), East Street.
Mr. Baigent, East Street.
Miss Tigwell, East Street.
Messrs. Heath & Wiltshire, East Street.
The Seven Stars Marine Stores, East Street.
Miss Brading, Tilford Road.
Mr. Kimber, Guildford Road.
Miss Rappen, St. George's Road.
Miss Wooding, Fairfield.
Mr. Smallbone, Hale Road.
Mr. Robins (Blacksmith), Castle View.
Mr. Davis, West Street.
Mr. Ranger, West Street.
Mr. Carter, Snelling's Yard.
Mr. German, Factory Yard.
The People's Drapery Stores, Boro'.
Mr. Spencer, Boro'.

Mr. Morgon, Boro'.
Mr. A. J. Bentall, Boro'.
Mr. H. K. Bentall, Boro'.
Mr. A. W. Lee, Downing Street.
Mr. Elliott, Downing Street.
Mr. Smither, Downing Street.
Mr. Ransom, Church Lane.
Mr. Bodkin, Castle Street.
Mr. Ayerst, Castle Street.
Mr. A. J. Figg, Long Garden Walk.

For various reasons I found defects sufficient to take note of in 13, namely :—

Mr. Hopwood, East Street.

The workshop here is not clean, and the ventilation is poor.

Mr. Crow, Tanfield House.

The yard adjoining the shop is dirty, and an open manure pit is also near the shop.

Mrs. Chuter, Waverley Estate.

One of her workrooms is slightly overcrowded.

Madame Pashler, West Street.

Is only using one room instead of two ; it is consequently slightly overcrowded.

Mr. Jackman, West Street.

One of the two w.c's. is not in working order. There are two workrooms, neither of which is properly cleaned, and in the downstairs room the South wall is decidedly damp.

Mr. Hart, Ironmonger, West Street.

Here the workshop itself is in order, but just opposite to the door is an old ruinous building, which at one time was used as a closet, but is now so ruinous and in so dirty a state as to be a nuisance, and it ought to be removed.

Mr. Usher, Boro'.

The cistern of the w.c. was out of order.

Mr. Frisby, Boro'.

The workshop is very dirty, for want of sufficient cleaning.

Mr. Crittall, Downing Street.

The workshop is not clean, and there is very little ventilation.

Mr. Hone,
Mr. Wilkinson,
The Burton Bottling Stores, } In yard behind
50 & 51 Downing Street.

The yard round which the buildings are built and in which are these three workshops, is in such a filthy and neglected condition as to make the workshops quite unfit for their present use; the yard has been recently reported on as a nuisance.

Mr. John Robins, Abbey Street.

About a load of stable manure was on the ground, about 15 feet from the workshop, there is no cementing under the manure, or cover over it. This should be removed from such close proximity to the workshop.

Mr. Elderfield, Union Road.

Here the workshop itself is dirty, and just outside is about a load of manure on surface of ground in no proper manure pit. This ought to be removed from such close proximity to the workshop. A similar state of things existed last year.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES, & MILK SELLING PLACES.

There are 9 places where milk is either produced or sold. Cows are kept in 3 places, and milk sold in 6. Of the 3 dairy farms one, namely, Mr. A. Simmonds', is in good order. With regard to the other two,

Mr. Bide, Snailslynch.

No alteration has been made since my report of December, 1909.

Mr. Stovold, Broomleaf Farm.

The yard adjoining the cowsheds and milking places is filthy, and there is still the same large accumulation of manure in the centre. The udders and teats of the cows were very dirty.

Of the 6 milk selling places, 5 are in good order, namely :
Messrs. Robins and Sons, East Street.

Mr. E. H. Robins, West Street.

Miss Nash, West Street.

Mr. George Prince, Lower Farm Dairy.

Mr. Taphouse, Downing Street.

but as regards

Mr. Hawkes, East Street.

The shop is not ventilated enough, especially as vegetables are kept in the same shop; and the smell from the sink,

which is in the scullery adjoining, is also perceptible in the shop. Steps should be taken to safeguard the milk from dangers of this sort.

BAKERIES.

Of the 14 inspected, 11 were in good or fair order, namely :—

Mr. Beesley, East Street.
Mr. Bunday, East Street.
Mr. Ransom, Boro'.
Mr. F. T. Burningham, Boro'.
Mr. Stewart, West Street.
Mr. Darracott, West Street.
Messrs. Chuter & Sons, Castle Street.
Messrs. Bailey & Co., Downing Street.
Mr. Worsam, Downing Street.
Mr. Stacey, Bridge Square.
Mr. Browning, Abbey Street.

But the following 3 are not quite satisfactory :—

Messrs. Rogers & Ransom, Castle Street.

Here the bakehouse is by the side of a yard, at the end of which are stables. This yard, from want of repaving and proper drainage, is not kept clean, and was in a bad state when inspected. Messrs. Rogers & Ransom have, however, promised to do all that is necessary to put it in good order.

Mr. Rogers, Boro'.

The paving of the yard adjoining this bakery is in bad condition, which makes it almost impossible to keep clean, and it was in fact dirty.

Mr. Blackmore, Ridgway Road.

The walls, ceiling, and floor are all dirty.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These have been inspected frequently during the year, both as to their condition and the health of the cattle slaughtered, by the Sanitary Inspector who has been specially appointed to do this work, with power to call to his aid a Veterinary Surgeon if there should appear to be any need.

The following are in good or fair order :

Mr. Stewart, West Street.
Mr. Edds, West Street.
Mr. J. M. Aylwin, West Street.

Mr. Stratford, West Street.
Mr. Hawkins, East Street.
Mr. Baker, Downing Street.
Mr. Price, Downing Street.
Mr. Oates, Hatch Mill.

Mr. Stratford's, South Street, is not kept sufficiently clean ; the same complaint was made last year.

LAUNDRIES.

The Beavers and Sanitary Laundries are both in fair good order.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

That of Mr. Del Guidice, in Church Lane, is very well kept and in every way very satisfactory. That of Mr. Rossie, at 83, West Street, is very fair.

OUTWORKERS.

The only two I know of are Mr. Hofvander, a tailor, of Woodnansey, St. Cross Estate, whose room is good ; and Mr. Fitch, of 96, East Street, also a tailor, whose room is good. Miss Stewart, reported last year, no longer does any outwork.

S. G. SLOMAN,

31st December, 1910.

Medical Officer of Health.

Farnham Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER AND SANITARY INSPECTOR'S

Report on Houses

Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, Abbey Street.

REPORT.

We beg to Report that we have inspected the above mentioned houses. We annex two plans:—Plan “A” which shows on a ground plan the houses and the yard adjoining as they are now, and Plan “B” which shows what we jointly recommend should be the position of the new w.c.’s and wash houses in the altered yard and some slight alterations in the houses themselves.

The condition of each house, separately, is given as follows:—

No. 3, Abbey Street.

1. The water supply is pure, being from the Water Company, but only supplied in two taps in the yard for the six houses.

2. A separate w.c. which is flushed with laid-on water, but is insufficiently ventilated, of bad construction, and about nine feet from the wall of the house.

3. The drainage is part of a joint system for the six cottages, and is of defective construction, and requires means for ventilation and cleansing. There is no sink for carrying off water which must either be thrown in yard gulleys or down w.c.

4. The lighting in all three downstairs rooms and in one of the bedrooms is bad, in one bedroom fair. Air cannot circulate freely because of faulty construction and insufficient window accommodation. The three downstairs rooms are all damp. All the house requires cleaning and repairs.

5. There is a small yard which measures about 13 feet by 15 feet which is common to this house and No. 4. It is paved with pitching stones in very bad repair, allowing slops or rain water to stand on the surface or soak into the ground between the stones, because it is unable to drain off; this is a very unhealthy state of things; there are two coal places and one old brick dustbin, structurally in very bad condition, and so dirty as to be most unhealthy. They are so constructed as to encroach unduly on the very small air space in the yard. Two other houses besides this one use this one dustbin.

6. The old dustbin just described is the only place for depositing refuse and ashes.

7. There are also the following defects :—

- (a) An old disused well in the yard about 3 feet from wall of this house, of considerable depth, into which surface water finds its way.
- (b) There is no water supply in the house.
- (c) The copper is in the living room.
- (d) There is no pantry in which to keep food.
- (e) Floors in some of the rooms broken, and house generally in bad repair.
- (f) Outside the South and a part of the West wall, the ground is considerably above the level of the floor, varying from 1 foot to 6 feet.

Taking all these facts into consideration, we consider this house unfit for human habitation.

No. 4, Abbey Street.

1. The water supply is pure, being from the Water Company, but only supplied in two taps in the yard for the six houses.

2. A separate w.c., which is flushed with laid-on water, but is insufficiently ventilated, of bad construction, and about 15 feet from wall of house.

3. The drainage is part of the system mentioned in No. 3, and there is no sink.

4. The lighting is fair, except in one bedroom, where it is bad. Air does not circulate freely, owing to faulty construction and windows which do not open in one front room and one back room. Three of the rooms are damp. Generally house requires cleaning.

5. The description of the yard given under No. 3 applies here, as No. 4 shares same yard.

6. The same dustpit, described under No. 3, serves this house.

7. The following defects are found here :—

- (a) The old well described under No. 3.
- (b) No water supplied in the house.
- (c) Floor in one bedroom is broken through.
- (d) The back wall of the house is only $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, and is damp.
- (e) All the walls and ceilings require repairs, and making good.

(f) From shooting in front water runs down wall of house and penetrates into room.

(g) There is a very small pantry, but dirty and out of repair.

Taking all these facts into consideration, we consider this house unfit for human habitation.

No. 5, Abbey Street.

1. The water supply is the same pure quality as Nos. 3 and 4, but only from a tap in the yard.

2. There is a separate w.c., which has a flushing system, but it is badly constructed and ventilated, and situated in an old outbuilding which is very unsanitary in itself, owing to dirt and impossibility of cleaning; it is about 14 feet from the wall of the house.

3. The drainage is part of the joint system mentioned under No. 3, but there is a small untrapped sink with no water laid on, and smells offensively,

4. The lighting is fair; the circulation of air is bad. Walls damp in all three downstairs rooms. Much of the house is very dirty.

5. The piece of yard behind this house is about 7 feet by 9 feet; it is a part of a yard which is common to it and Nos. 6, 7, and 8, and the description of No. 3. applies to it.

6. This house uses the same dustpit as Nos. 3 and 4, and has no other place to put refuse or ashes.

7. The following defects found here are not mentioned before:—

(a) Floors in two downstairs rooms broken.

(b) In one sleeping room smoke comes into it through a crack in the chimney flue in the room below.

(c) Whole requires repair, renovation and cleansing.

Taking all these facts into consideration, we think this house is unfit for human habitation.

No. 6, Abbey Street.

1. Water supplied same as others.

2. Same description applies as to Nos. 3 and 4, but it is only about 10 feet from wall of house.

3. Drainage is part of same system as the other houses, and there is no sink.

4. Lighting is fair; circulation of air is bad, because window in back room does not open; both downstairs rooms are damp, and steam from copper in back room goes straight upstairs into bedrooms; walls and ceiling require renovation and cleaning.

5. Piece of yard opposite this house only about 7 feet by 8 feet, otherwise in same condition as the rest of the yard.

6. This house shares one old dilapidated brick dustbin with Nos. 7 and 8 similar to the other one described above.

7. The following defects are found here:—

(a) No water supply in house.

(b) Another old well in the yard opposite, similar to the one mentioned above, but structurally dangerous, as it is not safely covered.

(c) No pantry at all here.

(d) Floor at back room downstairs in bad condition and house generally in very bad repair internally.

Taking all these facts into consideration, we consider this house unfit for human habitation.

No. 7, Abbey Street.

1. Same supply as the others.

2. The same description applies for this w.c. as for No. 6, and it is also about ten feet from wall of house.

3. The drainage is part of the same system as the other houses and there is no sink.

4. Lighting is fair in front room, bad in the back room. Ventilation is insufficient. Two rooms downstairs are damp. The house is not clean.

5. The part of the yard behind this house is rather larger than that behind No. 6, but its condition is the same described above.

6. A third share of the old dilapidated brick dustpit is all the provision for the disposal of refuse or ashes for this house.

7. The following defects are found here:—

(a) No water supply in this house.

(b) The floor of one room downstairs and one upstairs are much broken, and the staircase also requires cleansing, renovation and repairs. There is a pantry here, but it is very damp and unsanitary, and unsuitable for the storing of food.

(c) The interior generally is in bad repair.

Taking all the facts into consideration, we think this house is unfit for human habitation.

No. 8, Abbey Street.

1. The same supply as the others.
2. The same description applies to this w.c., as to the others mentioned above; it is about 15 feet from the wall of this house.
3. The drainage is part of the same system as the other houses, and there is no sink.
4. This house is insufficiently lighted; its ventilation is bad; three rooms on the ground floor are damp; the house is not clean.
5. The only yard space of this house is part of the yard common to Nos. 5, 6, 7, and 8, and its condition has been described before.
6. A one-third share of the old dilapidated brick dustbin mentioned under No. 7, is all the arrangement for deposit of refuse and ashes.
7. The following defects are found here :—
 - (a) No water supply.
 - (b) The West wall of the house at the back, both of the scullery and the bedroom above it, is bulging and structurally unsafe; in this bedroom also the ceiling is loose and bulging; in the scullery is a copper and fireplace without fittings, and the bedroom already mentioned is made very wet by steam from the copper when used.

Taking all these facts into consideration, we think that this house is unfit for human habitation.

Finally, we should like to recommend :—

1. That sinks be put to all the houses where they do not exist.
2. That water be laid on to all the houses indoors.
3. That all the windows in all the houses be made to open.
4. That all broken floors be mended.
5. That the coppers be removed from the houses.
6. That the scullery, and bedroom over No. 8, which we do not consider safe, be removed entirely.
7. That all the outbuildings and w.c's., the filling up of earth behind the wall of No. 8, the dilapidated wall dividing the yard be entirely removed, and the w.c's. rebuilt, with two new wash-houses, according to the Plan "B" annexed hereto.
8. That the drainage from the sinks be collected into a chamber and taken in drains into the drain in the street down the common passage.

9. That the new w.c.'s be properly ventilated, and their drains collected into a chamber and taken down the common passage to the sewer in the street.

10. That the old wells be filled up.

11. That the yard be cemented with such a fall that all surface water is drained to the side of the yard furthest from the houses, and from there into the surface water drain in the street.

12. That six sanitary dustbins be provided to take the place of the two ashpits removed.

13. That various small alterations and additions be made in the houses, as shown on Plan "B."

14. That that portion (at least) of the rear wall of No. 4, which is only $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, and where damp penetrates, be weather-tiled.

15. That additional windows, or increased lighting area of existing windows, be provided in all cases where the lighting area of existing windows is less than one-tenth of the area of the floor of the room which they are intended to light.

S. G. SLOMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

1st December, 1910.

ROBERT WILLIAM CASS,

Inspector.

Farnham Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

Special Report on Cottages
in Church Lane and Vicarage Lane.

REPORT.

As promised in my monthly report of April 29th, 1910, I now submit a more detailed report on certain houses, being Nos. 18, 19, 20, 21, Lower Church Lane, and Nos. 8 and 9, Vicarage Lane, in one of which, namely, 18, Lower Church Lane, two cases of Diphtheria had recently occurred. I do not consider that the disease was directly caused in the children affected by the condition of the house, but that the condition of this group of cottages is so unsanitary, that any or all of the persons inhabiting them, especially the children, would be in a lowered state of vitality and would therefore be more liable to take the disease when directly exposed to infection, as was the case here, because less able to resist the attack.

The whole of the houses have been carefully examined by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself, and I herewith give a description of the area in general, and of each cottage in detail. The site occupied by the above-mentioned six cottages is at the corner of Lower Church Lane and Vicarage Lane, is irregular in shape, but is roughly square, three of whose sides measure respectively 47 feet, 60 feet, and 40 feet, and contains approximately 350 square yards; the yard belonging to the whole of them is also roughly square, with sides measuring 36 feet, 44 feet, 24 feet, and 34 feet respectively; on this yard stand six old brick ashpits, three water closets and one wash-house common to them all, which was built about seven years ago; under the surface of the yard runs the drain from the three closets, which passes under No. 20, and out direct into the sewer, without any ventilation; about one-third of the area of the yard is paved. The cottages are interlocked in a most curious way, and the only approach to the small yard just mentioned for Nos. 18 and 19, Church Lane, and 8 and 9, Vicarage Lane, is through the common passage, over which are built out the bedrooms of 8 and 9, Vicarage Lane. Now as regards the cottages individually:—

8 and 9, Vicarage Lane.

These each consist of one living room and two bedrooms, one bedroom of each being built over the common passage to the yard as mentioned above, and they each have a door into this common passage; they have no sinks, or separate means of drainage, and no separate water supply, which is in the yard common to all; the rear walls, and back portion of the roof are in a state of dilapidation, and the upper part of the rear wall, which consists of a timbered and weather-tiled gable end, is somewhat unsafe. It will be noted that the sanitary conveniences, namely, provision for washing, cleansing, and cooking are most inadequate.

18, Lower Church Lane.

This is the corner cottage, and has windows facing both into Church Lane and Vicarage Lane. It has one living room, a scullery, and three bedrooms, two of fair size and one very small; there is no entrance of air behind, except through the common passage (already mentioned) from the yard; it has no sink, no separate water supply, has to share a water closet with another cottage, and is without adequate provision for washing, cleansing, and cooking; its West wall bulges considerably, and the whole building is in bad repair.

19, Lower Church Lane.

It contains one living room and two bedrooms, on three storeys; there is also a kind of scullery opening into the common passage, through which must come all the light and ventilation which it gets behind; there is no sink, or separate water supply, and the provision for washing, cleansing, and cooking, are most inadequate.

20, Lower Church Lane.

This is curiously interlocked with Nos. 19 and 21, is dark, dirty, dilapidated, and so ruinous as to be beyond repair; the drain also passes underneath it. It has not been inhabited for some years, and *is in such a state as to be a nuisance and unfit for human habitation.*

21, Lower Church Lane.

Here is one living room on ground floor, and a scullery, which are respectively 6 and 12 inches below the level of Church Lane; the floors are of brick, and are broken and damp; the living room is very badly lighted and ventilated, and only communicates with the open air behind by means of its scullery; it has no sink or separate water supply; the wall between it and the passage leading to No. 20, is of wood covered with canvas and old paper; most of the internal partitions are of wood framing, covered in places with canvas, and in others with a very rotten plastering, which it is impracticable to cleanse, repair, or renew satisfactorily; the joint roof over the scullery and over part of No. 20, is ruinous and lets in the wet freely into the scullery; it has only one small bedroom, and a room used as a boxroom, or lumber room, too small to be used as a bedroom. *This house is, in my opinion, unfit for human habitation.*

As a result of mature consideration of the foregoing facts, I am of opinion that Nos. 8 and 9, Vicarage Lane, are both of them, owing to their closeness, bad arrangement, bad condition, and want of air, ventilation, and proper conveniences, prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants, both of themselves and of the

neighbouring buildings, that they make the neighbouring buildings to be in such a condition as to be prejudicial to the health of their inhabitants, and it is therefore expedient that they should be dealt with by the Council under some one of the provisions of the Housing Acts.

As regards **Nos. 20 and 21, Lower Church Lane.**

I consider them both unfit for human habitation, and that they should be demolished.

Nos. 18 and 19, Lower Church Lane.

The owner should be called upon to put them in a condition reasonably fit for occupation in all respects.

I also beg to report on the conditions prevailing at the back of the row of cottages Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, Lower Church Lane, in one of which (No. 14) occurred the first case of Diphtheria. The cottages themselves are in fair condition, but are over-shadowed at the back by a large building which runs the whole length of the five cottages; the building has an overhanging upper storey at about seven feet from the ground, under which the ground is unpaved, and on it are four brick ash pits and five water closets; this piece of ground is about four feet wide, between it and Nos. 17, 16 and 15 there is a strip of yard which is about four feet wide, and behind Nos. 14 and 13 this strip is rather wider, in one place reaching as much as nine feet; this yard is paved with the pitching stones so common in Farnham, which gets into hollows and allows rain to accumulate; the gulleys which are made to carry off the surface water run along by the side of the house walls, which must be kept damp by this arrangement during wet weather. The back door of No. 15 has two ash pits and two water closets within ten feet, and no door is at a greater distance from a closet than twelve feet; the back windows look out on to this, and have no light or air space but what is contained between this obstructive building and themselves. One of the inhabitants told me that no sun ever reaches these back windows after 6 a.m.

S. G. SLOMAN,

2nd June, 1910.

Medical Officer of Health.